

(Continued from the 4th page of this paper.)

As, from the histories of Greece and Rome; the speeches of the great Chatham and Edmund Burke, &c.; all admirable specimens of English composition, and of intellectual acumen; but I often remarked at the time, that there was not one line in all my books put together dedicated to the description, or explanation, of any thing that I had either heard, or seen, or felt, in my daily life. At home nobody repeated Shakespeare, nor recited Chatham's speeches; and even "Andreas and the Lion" were not heard of except in the nursery. The world of the school was as different from the world of life as if it had related to beings in another planet. At the same time I felt an insatiable curiosity to obtain more ample information concerning things which were spoken about at home, and which I saw and handled; but could find none. This circumstance made a deep impression on me at the time, and I have never ceased to regard it as important. It embodies a principle instructive to all who are engaged in the work of education. It shows that there was, and I fear, in the present instance, there still is, a huge gulf existing between the infant mind and its means of obtaining real and profitable instruction. It is the object of this Society to fill up this void with useful knowledge. After I became acquainted with the philosophy with which my name is connected, generally connected, I saw the cause of this barren wilderness in education. The Creator has constituted the external world in admirable adaptation to the human faculties, but natural science and accurate knowledge of things that exist, and of their influences on human happiness, had not yet reached our schools. It now appears to me that the elementary principles of all the natural sciences, when contemplated in their primitive forms by superior minds, are simple, and that they constitute the native food of intellect. I include in these sciences, the knowledge of man's physical, moral, and intellectual nature, and the relations subsisting between them and external objects and beings. One unspeakable advantage of communicating instruction in these truths to youth is, that it furnishes them with a solid basis on which to found their judgments. Under the old system, all was conflicting opinion; authority stood against authority, and in the whole phases of human life, only applicable intricacy and inscrutable revolutions could be detected. The causes of good and evil did not appear, and the consequences of actions were scarcely traceable. A people whose education leaves them in such a condition, must to a great extent be exposed to the seduction of passions, of imperfect views of their own interests, and even to the delusions of an excited imagination, leading them into wild speculations and impracticable adventures. An education in natural truth steadies the whole mind, and places passion, imagination, and ambition under the guidance of reason. America needs an education of this kind; because she has no controlling principle in her institutions except the morality and intelligence of the majority of the people.

This Society, in framing books for schools, will do well to ask themselves as each volume is presented, "what does this book teach the people to do?" It is good to know; but it is better still to do. The history of the past is not a guide to the future, in the present state of civilized society. We are in a state of transition, and it is of greater importance to furnish sound, practical principles for the future, than to load the memory with a minute knowledge of the past. The pages of history are useful chiefly as charts, indicating the shoals on which human happiness has been shipwrecked. We must chalk out new and better lines for our future movements. It is extremely difficult to frame books embodying scientific principles, and applying them to practical purposes; but this object must be accomplished, before truly valuable school books shall be realized.

The plan of having a library in every school is admirable, and should not fall short of the full range of literature and science.

I conclude by adding one other practical remark. When I was in Berlin, in June, 1837, a member of the Council of the Minister of Public Instruction, for Prussia, told me that in one particular, the Prussian system of education appeared to him to be defective: in the lower schools, the girls and boys are educated alike; in the higher schools, those which are attended chiefly by the children of the middle classes, the boys are highly instructed in the elements of science, and the principles of the arts, but the girls are neglected. The consequence has been, that a generation of young men has grown up who do not find the females of their own rank, possessed of intelligence sufficient to render them objects of permanent respect, and domestic felicity has suffered, and is suffering a perceptible diminution from this cause. Whatever you do in education—preserve the women on a footing of equality with the men. The influence of the mother, on the young mind, is far greater than that even of the father. The father is engaged in arduous toils to provide for the subsistence of his family, and he may often have little leisure to communicate instruction. But the mother is the guardian, the constant companion, and the most efficient instructor of the young. But to enable her to answer the ceaseless inquiries of the child for information, you must provide her with knowledge herself. To be able to reach her offspring with success, she should be instructed in their physical and mental constitutions, and on the influence of external agencies upon them. America boasts of her elevated attention to women. Let her not neglect their education.

I apologize for these hasty observations, and beg that they may be accepted as a testimony of the interest which I feel in the cause, and not as presented to this enlightened audience as matter of novelty or instruction.

Mr. Key rose and said, he would not trespass upon the audience by seconding the resolution now before them, but from a desire that sound, practical result should attend this meeting, showing that we have felt what we have heard.

We have heard of this Society, its great scheme and beneficent operations. Men, high in the confidence of our countrymen, have declared their commendation, and the distinguished foreigner has hailed the institution as the dawning of a light that, shining upon our own land, shall send its rays throughout the world.

One of its labors is before us. Its common-school library. Let every school in our country be supplied with this means of improvement, and every neighborhood that bears of the Society, whose origin and object we have had the gratification of hearing tonight. Let it be thus known by its fruits. Let us begin this work. Let those who are assembled here from all parts of our country, determine that these volumes shall visit their schools and circulate around their homes. How many are there who could easily make such a present to the schools in their respective neighborhoods. It cost would not be felt. Its value none can calculate.

Much has been done for the internal improvement of our country. There is an improvement that addresses itself to the hearts and heads of our people, and these constitute the true wealth of a nation.

JOSEPH STORY, Chairman.
ROBERT STRANGE, Secretary.

ANOTHER ITEM FOR THE BLACK LIST OF FOREIGN CRIMINALS.

From the Albany Daily Advertiser of Feb. 15.

THE MURDERER LAUGEL.

Yesterday was the day appointed for the execution of this criminal at Buffalo. Notwithstanding the atrocious and aggravated nature of his crime, a strong effort was made to procure a commutation of sentence from the Governor; partly on the ground of the peculiar constitution of the prisoner's mind rendering the punishment of death an improper one; and partly because such a course would "hereafter deter others similarly situated from exposing their own and others' guilt." The Governor's answer to the application, which is annexed, is alike eloquent and conclusive.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, ALBANY,
January 31, 1839.

JOSEPH LAUGEL, convicted of the murder of Daniel Rapp, was sentenced to be executed on the 12th day of February next. Application has been made to me to commute this punishment to imprisonment for life. The petition in behalf of the prisoner is signed by several hundred citizens of Erie county, including a great majority of the members of the bar of that county, and the judges and jurors by whom the prisoner was tried. The prayer of the petition is sustained by the recommendation of the honorable Nathan Dayton, the Circuit Judge who presided at the trial. It is manifest that the situation of the prisoner has excited very general sympathy and solicitude.

The petitioners state, in substance, that, "laying aside all the circumstances connected with the murder, such is the condition of Laugel, and such the peculiar character of his mind, that the punishment of death would be more calculated to check the better feelings of our nature, than to serve as an admonition to the vicious and abandoned; that, convicted as he was, almost wholly upon his own disclosures, and those disclosures (if they are to be credited at all) tending to implicate another and equally guilty associate, his case, if some clemency is not extended towards him, will hereafter deter those similarly situated from exposing their own and others' guilt."

The policy of capital punishments, as a general question, is not before me. My responsibility is to determine whether the circumstances of the present case are such as to require the clemency of the Executive. I have referred, therefore, to the communication of the Circuit Judge, and to the proceedings on the trial, to ascertain the "condition" of the prisoner, and "the peculiar character of his mind," relied upon by the petitioners.

The question arising from these statements concerning the prisoner's mind is, whether he possesses the requisite powers and intelligence to render him morally accountable for his crime. This question does not appear to have been raised on the trial. I find in the testimony nothing to produce a doubt of the prisoner's accountability. If the prisoner was insane, it would be an extraordinary fact that he should have escaped the knowledge of his counsel, the court and the jury, before the judgment, as that it should not now be presented affirmatively and distinctly. I am informed, moreover, that the question of the prisoner's sanity, at the time of his trial, was raised by his counsel, in a preliminary stage of the proceedings, and was decided against him by a jury empaneled to try that issue.

The letter of the presiding judge does not express or intimate a doubt on this subject. It says only that "the prisoner is a weak, ignorant, credulous man, whose moral feelings have become blunted and almost destroyed." But are not the vicious generally weak, credulous, ignorant, and depraved?

The judge prevents any misconception of this part of his communication. After thus drawing the prisoner's character, and submitting some considerations in mitigation, he says, "this, under ordinary circumstances, might perhaps be deemed scarcely sufficient to justify the commutation of his punishment."

What then are the extraordinary circumstances of the case which demand the interposition of the Executive? They are, as stated by the petitioners, that the prisoner "was convicted almost wholly upon his own disclosures; that these disclosures (if they are to be credited at all) tend to implicate another and equally guilty associate." The judge states the circumstances to be, that the "prisoner was convicted principally on his own confessions, although these confessions were strongly corroborated by circumstances and facts having a direct bearing upon the case. Mrs. Rapp, his accomplice, has been acquitted. The evidence in her case was much the same as in that of Laugel, omitting his confessions, and adding some additional circumstances against her, and some explanatory evidence in her favor. The evidence was manifestly insufficient to justify her conviction; and still there was not a doubt in the public mind that she was not only guilty, but far more guilty than Laugel. She is evidently a shrewd, artful, wicked woman, and made him her tool to destroy her husband. There is a strong public feeling in favor of commutation of his punishment, arising from a firm conviction that she was in all respects the most guilty, as the contriver and actual participator." After this statement of the circumstances, the judge adds: "I have no hesitation in recommending a commutation or change of the sentence of death for that of imprisonment for life; and I believe that, in the existing state of things, this course will best subserve the ends of justice."

I have submitted all the papers relating to this subject to the Attorney General and the Justices of the Supreme Court, who are legal advisers of the Executive in such cases. Their opinion, concurring with my own, is herewith annexed.

The facts in the case may be briefly stated thus: An intimacy had existed several months between the prisoner and Mrs. Rapp. The deceased disapproved of this intimacy, and, as its calamitous result leaves no doubt, with just cause; but, being a man evidently of peaceable disposition, he contented himself, for aught that appears, with expressions of his dissatisfaction. On Monday, the 10th of July, 1837, Rapp was brought from his barn into his house, severely wounded in the head, and insensible. It was said by his wife, and believed by his family and his friends, that this injury had been received from the kick of a horse. Although the wounds were supposed mortal, he gradually recovered, and, on Friday morning, walked about his room, and was believed altogether out of danger. In this state of conva-

lescence, he suddenly died, and was buried. Suspicion went abroad, and, after the lapse of about a week, the body was disinterred, and underwent a post-mortem examination. It then appeared that death had been produced, not by the wound of the head, but by strangulation. The prisoner and his paramour, Rapp's wife, were arrested, and the prisoner subsequently confessed his guilt and accused his accomplice. His account of this transaction is substantially this: That he and Mrs. Rapp had held several conversations about killing Rapp, which resulted in an agreement, on his part, several nights previous to the first assault to execute that purpose. In pursuance of the agreement, he went on one occasion to Rapp's house, but returned without making an attempt. On the Sunday night previous to the first assault he renewed his promise, and prepared himself with a weapon. On Monday morning, he waylaid Rapp as he was entering the stable, felled him to the ground, and, after inflicting several blows, left him, supposing him to be dead.

During Rapp's convalescence, the prisoner was daily in conversation with Mrs. Rapp about "finishing" his horrid work. On Tuesday night he slept under Rapp's roof; she visited his bed several times, urging him to the murder, alleging that "if he was ever to do any thing, he must do it then, for her husband was getting well, and would soon be so strong that they could do nothing with him." After a night thus spent, the prisoner and Mrs. Rapp went into Rapp's room. Mrs. Rapp, after attempting to irritate her husband, pushed the prisoner upon him. The prisoner "took Rapp by the throat and held him until he was dead," the wife at the same time assisting by pressing upon the body of her husband.

Such is the prisoner's history of the transaction. A murder more foul in its origin and motives, or more atrocious in its circumstances, has seldom been committed in this or any other country.

I am unable to conceive how the guilty connection between the prisoner and the wife of his victim, or the influence over him which she acquired by this connection, can mitigate his guilt.

I cannot understand how the escape of his accomplice from justice can be made an argument for commutation of his punishment.

There is no ground for a doubt that the prisoner's confession is in every respect true. He has indeed the merit of having made it. But when would crime receive its just punishment, if that punishment could be averted by late and unavailing confession? The prisoner had time for remorse and repentance, after making his horrid compact, after his first attempt to execute his murderous purpose, and again, after his final accomplishment. He seems to have been hardened in guilt, until his victim was brought from the grave, to be his accuser, and public suspicion had fastened upon himself as the offender.

There is no plausible ground upon which I can interpose, unless it be that the prisoner has become insane since his conviction. The Revised Statutes provide for that case by authorizing the sheriff to summon a jury to ascertain the prisoner's insanity, and upon their verdict the sheriff is required to suspend the execution until he receives a warrant from the Executive, or from the Justices of the Supreme Court. [2 R. S. 547.]

Painful as is the responsibility cast upon me by this application, I am satisfied that it cannot be granted without establishing a precedent which will leave the Executive without the power to withhold its clemency in almost every instance where the law prescribes capital punishment.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

OPINIONS OF JUDGES OF SUPREME COURT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL.

"Having, on the request of Governor Seward, examined the case of Joseph Laugel, convicted of the murder of Daniel Rapp, we are of opinion that the conviction was legal and upon sufficient evidence, and that it is not a case in which a pardon or commutation of punishment should be granted."

(Signed) S. NELSON,
GREENE C. BRONSON,
E. COWEN,
SAMUEL BEARDSLEY.

January 21, 1839.

Anecdote of Madison.—When the debates upon the adoption of the Federal Constitution were occupying the attention of our patriot fathers, and when wisdom, like a daily visitant, hovered over the hall where genius and virtue breathed fire into the hearts of the sages who were there assembled, Mr. Madison wished to speak, but was almost afraid from his great physical debility to make the attempt. However, he begged a gentleman who was sitting near him to pull him by the coat when he perceived that he was becoming exhausted.

Mr. Madison rose and opened his speech—his voice was feeble at first—it became stronger as he progressed—passage after passage of brilliant illuminating thought came from his almost inspired lips; every point of the great subject he touched upon, he left for men of all future times to look upon as if he had thrown the clouds from the summit of the hills—he went on, and concluded, "Why," as he sunk back exhausted in his chair, "why did you not pull me when you saw me go on as I did?"

"I would rather have laid my finger upon the lightning," was the reply.

This anecdote was obtained from a gentleman who was present.—Gen. of Lib.

A Thought.—Were children accustomed from infancy, to hear nothing but correct conversation, there would be little need of their learning arbitrary rules of Grammar—they would naturally speak and write correctly. Hence it is that children of educated parents are generally so much more easy and graceful in their conversation than the children of the uneducated. Our language like our manners, is caught from those with whom we associate, and if we would have the young improve in this important part of education, we must be careful that they hear no vulgarism from us. Parents and teachers cannot be too particular in their use of language in the presence of imitative children.—Pestalozzi.

Massachusetts License Law.—The examination of the legislative committee, on the subject of the license law in Massachusetts, is teaching them what we should think they might have guessed before—that the temperance cause, which was flourishing and progressing triumphantly, when moral means were employed for its advancement, has, since the strong arm of the law has been brought to its aid, been rapidly retrograding. The increase of the home consumption of ardent spirits in Boston alone, since the passage of the new law, amounts to \$106,927! We should imagine that the result of the experiment would teach the wise legislators to repeal the law.—Nex.

LATEST FROM MAINE.

A postscript from the Boston Atlas of Monday morning furnishes the following intelligence:

Correspondence of the Boston Atlas.

STATE HOUSE, AUGUSTA.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1839.

From the Restock information has been received to the 25th Feb. Col. Jarvis writes on the 24th that all were well and doing well. He was making arrangements to establish a force on the Restock about ten miles from the line. He has stationed a detachment at the mouth of the Little Machias. Gen. Hodson, with his force, was proceeding to the Restock by the way of "Houlton." He will have to cut a road of about fourteen miles before he can reach that river. A letter from the Restock, dated the 25th, states that the British had but one company of regulars and a few militia at the mouth of the "Tobique." No attack on our forces was anticipated at present. A report reached here last evening, that the detachment of our forces sent to the Fish river had arrested eleven trespassers and taken possession of several teams; that the trespassers, though armed, made no resistance.

SENATE CHAMBER, AUGUSTA, March 2.

Dear Sir: From the intelligence received from Washington last evening, we have strong fears that the General Administration will not extend to Maine, that aid which the crisis demands. I speak advisedly, when I say that if the contemplated visit of General Scott to Maine is only to persuade a withdrawal of our troops from the disputed territory, or a relinquishment of our present position, he might as well stay away. I repeat that I speak advisedly when I say this.

BANGOR, FRIDAY,

HALF-PAST FIVE O'CLOCK, P. M.

Letters have just come in by the express line of videttes ten hours and twenty-five minutes from Houlton, a distance of 120 miles, the headquarters of Gen. Hodson; one of them is from Col. John L. Hodson, of the general's staff, and communicates the important intelligence that a regiment of 800 fusiliers had arrived at Halifax from Cork, and were ordered to be at Fredericton on Wednesday last, and to proceed forth with to the disputed territory.

It also states that it would be necessary to cut a road from seven to twenty miles for our troops to join Mr. Jarvis's force, which could only at one point approach within a few miles of the undisputed boundary, at which point it was anticipated there must be a brush with the enemy. It was also supposed that a reinforcement of American troops must be ordered up very soon.

Another letter from Houlton states that Col. Webster, one of the persons taken with Mr. McIntire, had arrived there from No. 10, with the information that Jarvis's force had thrown up a fort near Fitzherbert's, from whose house you will recollect our citizens were carried off, using his (Fitzherbert's) timber, he having fled. The letter also says that Col. Webster reports the arrival of 500 British troops from Quebec, at Madawaska village—having been ordered to New Brunswick before the difficulties commenced. This is all the news to-night.

From the Fredericton (N. B.) Sentinel, Feb. 22.

This Province has not only been invaded by a military force belonging to the State of Maine, in a time of profound peace, but invaded with the avowed determination of maintaining possession, if possible, of the territory in dispute. The question, therefore, must resolve itself into this—will the General Government of the Union and the other States support that of Maine in its infraction of a treaty and mutual understanding, and compel it to comply with the condition of the Federal compact which unites them together; or will they support her in her arrogant pretensions? This must be promptly and decidedly answered.

Meantime, the course to be pursued on the part of the British authorities in this part of her Majesty's dominions is, to maintain inviolate the possession of territory which, by treaty and right, belongs to Great Britain; and although war is to be deprecated and dreaded, yet it is not to be prevented by measures of expediency.

Reinforcements for the detachments of the 38th regiment that proceeded last week toward the scene of invasion, continue to be sent off. Yesterday, a company of that corps followed; and this morning, the remainder, led by a party of the Royal Artillery, with a field-piece, left for Woodstock.

We hazarded a prediction a few weeks since that the wooden nutmeg gentry would soon be along with silkworm eggs, made out of yellow bees-wax, and dropped on best hot pressed letter paper, for sale to the amateurs. We had not a stronger confidence than that our prophecy was so near its fulfilment as it now seems to be. The Northampton Courier of the last week announces that Bass wood cuttings have been sold there for cuttings of the Morus Multicaulis; and we have to add, that a friend of ours received last week a small phial, of what was said to be mulberry seed, as a sample of twenty-five pounds, which the person who sent it, had on hand for sale, wishing to know the price and prospects. This sample of mulberry seed is nothing more nor less than sago, and we beg leave to add, a very fair sample of much of the humbuggery (we wish we could find a better word) that is going on in this very same mulberry seed and egg and tree business.—Gen. of Lib.

Ferocity of a Rat.—The Evening (N. Y.) papers relate a singular circumstance which took place in that city, on the 19th ult. A Mrs. Forbes left her child, an infant of two months asleep in her bed, in the morning, and went about her usual pursuits. Shortly after, a young lady, whose bed-room was next that in which the child was left, was alarmed by its screams, and on hastening to ascertain the cause, she was horrified at perceiving a large rat tearing at its cheek, and within half an inch of the jugular vein! The domestic monster had commenced with the infant's hand, which it had severely torn, but had abandoned it for a part from which more blood could be obtained. Had not the young lady been at hand to render assistance, the child, which it is now said will soon recover, must in a few minutes have been killed.

Among the appointments made by the President of the United States, and confirmed by the Senate, during the late session of Congress, was that of David Porter (the Commodore) to be Minister Resident of the United States near the Ottoman Porte.—Nat. Int.

WASHINGTON.

Our Country—always right—but, right or wrong, our Country.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1839.

OFFICE ON E STREET, IN THE SQUARE IMMEDIATELY WEST OF THE BURNT POST OFFICE.

EDITED BY

DR. T. D. JONES.

(Persons desirous to afford pecuniary aid to the Native American Association, are requested to call on C. W. Roteler, Ulysses Ward, F. Howard, S. J. Todd, John C. Harkness, A. Rothwell, George Swann, Wm. B. Todd, Henry M. Moffet, George W. Harkness, or John C. McKeliden.)

THE BALL IN MOTION.

From the following proceedings in the Legislature of Louisiana, it will be seen that the People of that State have not only come out in an associated character, as *Native Americans*, but have memorialized their Legislature to call for the action of Congress on the important subject of the repeal of the Naturalization Laws.

The Committee have acted promptly, and reported favorably, "recommending the objects of the Association to the attention of Congress." We trust that early in the next session of the National Council we shall see our humble efforts in the City of Washington sustained with energy as they have been backed with zeal by the influence, the voice, and the patriotism of a noble State in her sovereign capacity.

"Mr. Brashear, an officer of the Committee to which had been referred the petition of the Louisiana Native American Association, presented a report recommending the objects of the Association to the attention of Congress. On motion of Mr. Davidson, amended by Mr. Poydras, the report was laid on the table, subject to the call of the House, and was ordered to be printed for next Monday."

THE MARINE CORPS.

We stated in our last, that one of the two vacant lieutenancies in this Corps had been filled with a foreigner, and that it was probable the other would be. Since then our prediction has been verified. Here we are presented with a case in which there were two foreigners and more than one hundred natives, applicants for these two offices; and will it not sound strange to the ears of our countrymen to be told that the two former were the successful candidates? Will any one believe that not one of the latter was equally well qualified and as deserving? Not an individual in the United States will believe it.

What shall we think, then? Can it be for party purposes? Can favoritism towards foreigners secure the perpetrators of these unjust deeds more friends than neglect towards natives will loose them? We hope not. And we believe that it is only necessary for these detestable acts to be known to bring down upon the heads of their authors a sweeping tempest of indignation. May Heaven speed this event. We have more to say on this subject when time shall supply us with some facts not now in our possession.

We occupy neutral ground; but we stand in a similar position to that of the late talented Senator from Virginia—"an armed neutrality"—and while we do not mean to provoke hostility, we are ready for self-defence, regardless as to the objects on whom our missiles may take effect, when, by being invaded, we are compelled to let them fly.

We must confess that present appearances but too evidently portend the fulfilment of the arrogant declaration not long since openly avowed at a public meeting in this District, and published in a newspaper in New York, a devoted organ of the aliens, that they were "born to be our masters," and the treachery of our own countrymen, it would seem, is to be the means of its accomplishment.

SABBATH DAY SESSIONS.

We think it is a circumstance much to be regretted that the National Legislature should be under a necessity, either real or supposed, to do business on the Sabbath day, as was the case at the close of the late session.

It is a matter deserving higher consideration than will perhaps be given to it. We are not prepared to look to human authority for the establishment of rules which contravene the laws of Heaven, according to which, legislation as a work, equally with tilling the earth, must be considered as a profanation of that day; and if the punishments inflicted on other nations, for this cause, were so tremendous as recorded on the highest authority, we may justly fear a similar condemnation of "Him who governs the nations upon earth."

The Navy Bill in the Senate was amended on motion of Mr. Rives, by adding an appropriation of \$300,000 to commence three steam vessels of war. This is right. We hope they will be commenced without delay.—Mad.

We had this morn in our National Legislature with much pleasure. We hope it is the harbinger of a far more extended movement on this subject. The only thing to be regretted in it, is that instead of three steam ships to be commenced, it had not been three times three, as more appropriate to the exigencies of the country.

The free banking system seems to be agitated in many of the States. Those which we observe by our exchanges as having caught the New York spirit, are Ohio, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

The South Carolina Railroad Bank Bill, which was rejected some days ago in the Kentucky House of Delegates, has been reconsidered, and no doubt seems to be entertained of its passage.—Globe.